

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 18 of 1878.]

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 4th May 1878.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramjibī"	Barāhanagar ...	4,000	
2	"Rajshahye Sambād"	Rajshahye ...	.....
3	"Grāmbartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly ...	200	
4	"Arya Pratibhā"	Bhowanipore ...	.....
5	"Suhrid"	Calcutta ...	.....
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
6	"Culna Prakāsh"	Culna ...	.....
7	"Hindu Lalanā"	Nawabgunge, Barrack-pore. ...	.....
8	"Sahayogī"	Bhowanipore, Calcutta ...	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
9	"Banga Hitaishi"	Bhowanipore ...	.....	24th April and 1st May 1878.
10	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh ...	658	25th April 1878.
11	"Bhārat Sanskarak"	Calcutta ...	.....	3rd May 1878.
12	"Bengal Advertiser"	Ditto ...	.....
13	"Bishwa Dūt"	Táligunj, Calcutta ...	.....	24th April and 1st May 1878.
14	"Burdwan Prachārikā"	Burdwan ...	165	
15	"Burdwan Sangivani"	Ditto ...	.....	16th, 22nd, and 30th April 1878.
16	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca ...	400	28th April 1878.
17	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly ...	1,168	26th ditto.
18	"Grāmbartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly ...	200	1st May 1878.
19	"Hindu Hitaishini"	Dacca ...	300	27th April 1878.
20	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Bauleah, Rajshahye ...	.....	24th ditto.
21	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi"	Berhampore ...	.....	19th ditto.
22	"Pratikār"	Ditto ...	235	19th and 26th April together.
23	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kákinia, Rungpore ...	250	28th March 1878.
24	"Sádhāranī"	Chinsurah ...	516	28th April 1878.
25	"Sahachara"	Calcutta ...	.....	29th ditto.
26	"Sambād Bháskar"	Ditto ...	.....	17th and 24th April 1878.
27	"Sulabha Samáchar"	Ditto ...	5,500	27th April 1878.
28	"Soma Prakāsh"	Bhowanipore ...	700	29th ditto.
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
29	"Banga Mittra"	Calcutta ...	4,000	
<i>Daily.</i>				
30	"Sambād Prabhākar"	Calcutta ...	550	16th to 18th April 1878.
31	"Sambād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	.....	27th April to 2nd May 1878.
32	"Samáchar Chandrikā"	Ditto ...	625	25th April to 3rd ditto.
33	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Ditto ...	.....
34	"Arya Mihir"	Ditto ...	.....
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
35	"Howrah Hitakarī"	Bethar, Howrah ...	300	28th April 1878.
36	"Murshidabad Patrikā"	Berhampore ...	.....	26th ditto.
37	"Burrisal Bártábaha"	Burrisal ...	300	
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
38	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta ...	400	24th ditto.
URDU.				
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
39	"Akhbār-ul-Akhiār"	Mozufferpore ...	.....
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
40	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna ...	509	1st May 1878.
PERSIAN.				
41	"Jám-Jahán-numá"	Calcutta ...	250	26th April and 3rd May 1878.

POLITICAL.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.
April 22nd, 1878.

1. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* states that an erroneous impression has taken hold of the English, to the effect that the natives are discontented with British rule.

The loyalty of the Bengalis.

On the contrary, we had got a sovereign to our heart's desire, and had hoped to see India resuscitated like Greece and Rome. Men of education do not cringe to a white man, the misdeeds of judges are brought to public notice, and we cry out against laws that are not advantageous to the subjects; but are these the signs of disloyalty? If so, no civilized society can be free from the charge. It is because we are loyal that we occasionally exhibit such boldness. If there were sin in our hearts we could not have such courage. Loyalty is a treasure of the heart; and if our hearts could but be laid bare, it would be seen that they overflow with loyalty. We are a grateful people, and, as such, attached to Government for the many benefits we have derived from it, and desire no change; for we live happy and comfortable under the present rule. If England were to leave us, ours would be the same state as hers when Rome gave her up. Firmly do we believe that the future prosperity of India depends upon the compassion of England. There are those who cannot bear to see India prosper, and they seek to influence the mind of Government against us. Let them. So long as we do our duty, and the loyalty of our hearts is unshaken, no one shall tear away our Sovereign from her loyal subjects.

MOORSHEEDABAD
PRATINIDHI,
April 19th, 1878.

2. England has at last become alive to the fact that the Russians had a previous intention of meddling with British interests, and she has prepared herself for war.

England and Russia.

Italy, Austria, and Greece have agreed to assist her; Russia has become weakened by her losses in Turkey, and will in all probability be defeated; but the contest will be a very bloody one. India, it is said, will send 60,000 men, and our prayer is that in India's assisting England, the glory and honor of this country may be advanced. England has hitherto been passive under Gladstone's erroneous instructions, but by Lord Beaconsfield's advice has got herself ready for war. India is in a fearful condition. While still weak with the burden of taxes laid upon her, famine supervened; and now the Queen is on the eve of waging war with Russia, a war which will doubtless be a protracted one. We shall be at ease when England obtains tranquility from this contest.

HINDU HITAINISHI,
April 27th, 1878.

3. When one has numerous foes, it is hard for him to prosper. Julius Cæsar did much, but was slain by Brutus.

England and Russia.

Alamgir had many enemies and brought ruin on his posterity; and Napoleon, after making the nations of Europe tremble, died miserably at Saint Helena. So there is no doubt that the present Russian Government, prompted by her greed, is sowing the seeds of evil for the future. Whether Russia will be able to cope with England alone is doubtful; but when the latter is joined by Italy, Greece, and France, there is no doubt that Russia will fall; since she trembled with fear before the power of Turkey alone. She is not likely to succeed against England, nor is she a match for her in the arts of war or in bravery. See what England did during the mutiny, when one English soldier made 200 of Amar Singh's troops tremble at Arrah. The Cossacks, in whom Russia prides herself, will scarcely stand against Sikhs and Goorkhas. Lord Hardinge and Sir Hugh Gough declared that the war with the Sikhs was even more dreadful than that with Bonaparte; and can the Cossacks withstand them? Russia should make peace with England, or there can be no hope for her.

4. The *Jám-Jahánúmá* says that Russia did not conquer Turkey by bravery or force of arms alone, but by bribing the high officers. England, though very powerful and strong, yea, the strongest nation in Europe, yet keeps back from war, through compassion; not being desirous to see numbers of men slaughtered in battle. Russia is pursuing a tortuous course with respect to England, as will be seen from her not acting up to England's wishes in respect of the treaty with Turkey. If war takes place, we cannot say whether Turkey will fight on the side of Russia, or not. By the force of circumstances it might do so, but not with a sincere heart.

The Russo-Turkish war.

JAM JAHANNUMA,
April 26th, 1878.

5. This paper says it would be a piece of great ingratitude, on the part of Cabul, if it sides with Russia; because it was the English who, since Cabul was separated from India about 150 years ago, placed Dost Muhammad, the father of the present ruler, on the throne. It is hoped that our newspaper contemporaries of India will urge on Cabul that its alienation from England is highly unbecoming and improper; for, though Russia performs great acts of condescension and shows much kindness, yet these must be considered but temporary.

Russia, Cabul, and the English.

JAM JAHANNUMA.

6. From the passive, though by no means unimportant, assistance given to Germany by Russia during the Franco-German war, the former will assuredly not only aid the latter in like manner, but also prevent Austria and Italy from joining England. England, in case she goes to war, is in no need of money; whereas a long campaign would drive Russia to extreme want; she has already spent much in the late war with Turkey, and has not yet received any part of the treaty money. England has hitherto never shown her back in battle. Will that nation which turned not away from Napoleon be afraid to fight the proud Nicholas? She has up to this preserved the balance of power in Europe, and takes her rank amongst the first-rate powers. She will not be crippled for want of a sufficient army; and may obtain aid from her Colonies and India. Russia now can bring only 755,000 men in the field, and have a reserve force of 250,000; but in the Russo-Turkish war she was not able to bring more than 160,000 men into the field. She was defeated in some actions when she first invaded Turkey; but at length by superiority of numbers, bribes, and treachery she conquered. In fighting with England, she will be opposed by an equal number of troops and by experienced Generals, and will have to give way; so that there is every probability of Russian pride being lowered, and we have not the least doubt but that England will come off victorious.

The probability of a war between Russia and England.

HOWRAH HITAKARI,
April 28th, 1878.

7. The *Rungpore Dik Prákásh*, adverting to the great waste of men and money in the late Russo-Turkish war, remarks, with much regret, that no efforts were made to secure peace, and no one came forward to take compassion on Turkey; the attitude taken by Turkey, England, and the European powers in the Russo-Turkish war was very unsatisfactory, and being anxious to secure their own interests, they are now seeking to fan the flames of war in another direction. Although peace has been made, yet there is no end to the controversy about the conditions; and Turkey is embarrassed in consequence. The refusal of Russia to lay the conditions of the treaty before Congress has made England, which had hitherto stood aloof, impatient; she has therefore got herself ready for war, and Europe is thrown into trouble. Europe, in its population, civilization, wealth, and rank, stands first in the world, and the Sovereigns of the different kingdoms should therefore calmly unite to put an end at once to this Russo-Turkish affair.

Russia and Turkey.

RUNGPORE DIK
PRÁKASH,
March 28th, 1878.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

BHARAT MIHIR,
April 25th, 1878.

8. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 25th April, makes the following observations in reference to the Vernacular Press Act:—

The Vernacular Press Act.

Act:—In what an inauspicious moment, and, we cannot tell, owing to what misfortune of the newspapers, the Hon'ble Mr. Eden determined to be unfavorable to them. This stern attitude was first noticed, during his visit to Dacca, in the course of his tour through Eastern Bengal; and produced doubts in the minds of the people, which developed into fear, by His Honor's speech on the occasion of a subsequent Darbār. We thought then, there was no knowing when the Olympus might come down upon our heads. It also appears from the speeches delivered in the Legislative Council, on the day the Press Act was passed, that Mr. Eden was the foremost advocate of the measure. He was not satisfied with merely expressing his own views; but stated, in their support, that his predecessor Sir George Campbell also had desired the enactment of such a law. We believed this. For, in the first place, we thought that such a great man as the Lieutenant-Governor could not possibly assert anything without being well informed on the point; and, in the next place, considering the manner in which Sir George Campbell was attacked by both Vernacular and English papers, and the strong language in which his acts were occasionally reviewed in their columns, it was not unlikely that he had proposed such a rigorous measure. We have, however, been comforted by the contradiction given to this statement by Sir George in his place in Parliament. We are comforted; because now it appears that this present narrow policy has originated with Mr. Eden only, but had no place in the minds of his predecessors in office. What is more, such an ungenerous thought did not cross Lord Lytton's mind a year ago; as witness the invitations given to Native Editors to attend the Delhi Assemblage, and his reply to their address. It was then that he recognized them as representatives of the people and expressed his confidence in their loyalty. But in the Council Chamber, exactly opposite things were said, and acts done. It was said that the passing of such an Act was necessary for the safety of the Empire. Now, in the name of justice, we ask what evil actually resulted, or what was apprehended to the Indian Empire, from the newspapers? None of them has ever consciously, even for a day, written anything with a view to the subversion of British rule or the exciting of a general disaffection towards it in the minds of the people. Government has not put a correct construction upon the language and the sentiments of the Vernacular papers.

Why then did Mr. Eden mention Sir George Campbell's name in connection with the necessity of passing a Press Act, when, as a matter of fact, he had never made any proposal of the kind? That he did so, was owing to our ill-fate. We might have derived some degree of comfort, had Government themselves read the newspapers, and then censured them or felt the necessity of enacting such a law. As it is, the measure has been passed on second-hand information, from seeing through others' eyes, and as the result of secret deliberation. The newspapers were regarded by many of the civilians as an eye-sore; for they had rudely shocked the feelings of many a Magistrate and of certain Commissioners; had always kept a sharp eye on their doings; and ever blamed an abuse or undue exercise of authority on their part. Unfortunately, Government must have listened to the counsels of these men. Had Government themselves but made any enquiries regarding the newspapers, the *Samāj Darpan*, a journal which has long since (about ten months) been defunct, would not have been served with a notice. That paper, fearing the consequences that might follow the speech which Mr. Eden made on the occasion of the Darbār at Belvedere,

even then ceased to exist. The Government of Bengal, however, has asked the printer and publisher of that paper to execute a bail-bond. To whom shall we disclose this sorrow? Such a ruinous result would not have certainly overtaken the Vernacular papers had Mr. Eden but himself read them. This has at last been their reward. They have always worshipped him as a god, the news of his accession to the Lieutenant-Governorship made their hearts leap with joy, and made the blood flow with double speed through their veins,—yet this same Mr. Eden has caused weeping in every household in Bengal, and filled every native heart with deep sorrow. Had it been in our power to lay bare these broken hearts, he would have seen what intense anguish has been the consequence of the present measure. We only regret that Government has not comprehended the cause of our grief.

9. The same paper continues: The people of Bengal have ever preserved a disposition of obedience to law, and have patiently accepted every Act which Gov-

The Vernacular Press Act.

ernment has enacted from time to time. But why is it that they find themselves unable to receive this fearful measure (the Press Act) with all their hearts? Why is it that every page of this Act, and the letters which compose the words, are moistened with the tears of the Bengalis? Laws are enacted in every country; many have been passed in India also; and their object is only the good of society. They are never enacted in a spirit of retaliation. But in the application of the present Act, the Government of Bengal seems to have overlooked even the common principles of right.

The Editors of Vernacular papers have been frightened and become more cautious ever since this Act was passed; and have not, subsequent to this event, written a line which might be objected to by Government. And yet notices have been issued for offences committed in the past. And is not this vindictiveness? Even the Anglo-Indian papers, who are generally so ready to find fault with native prints, have expressed regret at this way of applying the law.

Adverting to the conduct of Sir Richard Temple and Sir George Couper, in reference to the Vernacular Press Act, the same paper states that Mr. Eden's action in this respect has been without a parallel. He has done what others have not. The consequence of this has been that the people have been downcast: and feel that Government distrusts them without any sufficient cause. The existence of such feelings, however, between the rulers and the ruled, is never desirable in the interests of good government. It is never agreeable to conduct the work of administration with the aid of force alone, without any support from the affections of the subjects.

10. The same paper writes as follows:—We repeat what we have said before, that the people of this country have ever been the well-wishers of the British Government, both by their natural dispositions and on considerations of self-interest. Before the passing of the Press Act, the thought had never crossed their minds that newspapers could possibly do any injury to Government. The illiterate masses now learn, for the first time, that even the most powerful British Government may be heated in its mind by the writings of a newspaper; and that they can frame or alter public opinion in any direction. Government, again, is mistaken if it thinks that the Vernacular Papers are read by the uneducated and unthinking portion of the people. As a matter of fact, they are hardly aware of their existence.

11. The same paper informs its readers that it will cease to exist from next week. It regrets that it should thus have been compelled to put a stop to its own

The *Bhārat Mīhīr* announces its demise.

BHARAT MIHİR,
April 25th, 1878.

BHARAT MIHİR.

BHARAT MIHİR.

existence, before the noble task, which it had imposed upon itself, was fully accomplished; and at a time when the subscription list had risen from 300, the number with which it started, to 800. It is not, however, considerations of gain or loss which grieves the proprietors in thus discontinuing the paper, for these were no part of the object for which it was ushered into existence at a cost of Rs. 5,000, in a distant part of the country, abounding with a semi-educated population. It is a matter of exceeding regret that the charge of disloyalty should be fastened upon it, seeing that it has ever written in a loyal spirit. The Editor takes leave of his readers in a most pathetic address.

SADHARANI,
April 28th, 1878.

12. The *Sádháraní*, of the 28th April, contains an article, headed the "Relations between rulers and their subjects." The loyalty of the Vernacular Press. It is observed that these are of the same nature as those which exist between parents and children. The writer dwells on the loyalty of the Vernacular Papers, and remarks that, if they have occasionally blamed Government, they have equally praised it too. They act but as friends, and are not seditious, when they point out the errors and shortcomings of the rulers.

SADHARANI.

13. Correspondents writing to this paper from Goálpára, Govardángá, and Janye, all express regret that Act IX of 1878 has been passed. The consequence of this measure will be the suppression of all Vernacular prints, which have so long materially helped by their writings the cause of good government and the progress of the Vernaculars.

SOMA PRAKASH,
April 29th, 1878.

14. The opening editorial in the *Soma Prakásh*, of the 29th April, is headed the "Resuscitation of the *Soma Prakásh*" for which event, the Editor is exceedingly thankful to Lord Lytton. The Government of India, by virtue of its greatness, has cancelled the ungenerous order of the local Government, to obtain securities from the editors of Vernacular papers; and has thus shown its god-like qualities. His Excellency is now besought to repeal this Act IX of the 14th March. Otherwise, it will ever remain a memento of disgrace to him in the heart of India. Honestly speaking, a law so bad was never passed in this country before. Not only does it carry with it evidence of haste and partiality, but also of an undignified vindictiveness and bitter anger on the part of the superior authorities. A Sovereign should be possessed of god-like attributes—while, on the contrary, a feeling of revenge is worthy of a demon only. The Editors are but men and liable to err. It does not behove the rulers to ruin them at once, and bar the way of the country's progress for any mistakes or shortcomings of which they may be occasionally guilty. Now that Mr. Lethbridge has been appointed Press Commissioner with the Government of India, he should be asked to warn editors of Vernacular papers whenever they might go wrong. By following this course, the object of Government will be attained, while it avoids the unpopularity consequent on the passing of a law so low and tainted with partiality.

It is not clear why Mr. Eden has asked Native Editors to execute bail-bonds. Why should they be asked, like thieves, robbers, or other unprincipled characters, to furnish securities of good behaviour? It is desirable that the head of the Government of Bengal should be possessed of great experience; but it is to be regretted that, although Mr. Eden boasts of his extensive acquaintance with this province, still, by his speech at Belvedere and the requisition of security from native editors, he has shown that he lacks both. We much regret that he has treated them with rudeness from a notion that they are common men. There are many reasons why the

rulers cannot bear all that is said of them in the newspapers; but it is through ignorance that they attribute evil consequences to these publications. We are both sorry and disappointed that Mr. Eden has not been able to maintain to the last the name he acquired at the beginning of his official career. Not one of the acts performed by him, since his accession to the Lieutenant-Governorship, has added to his fame. Exalted offices are but the occasions of severe trials. It is not everybody who can steer clear of all difficulties; and it is only idle for one, who cannot, to attain to a high office; for, in such a case, both the rulers and the subjects suffer and are dishonored. We see that nobody is pleased with Mr. Eden; it was wrong to have appointed him to the Lieutenant-Governorship. Those that appointed him were mistaken, as we have been. We hoped much from him, but have been sadly disappointed.

The Editor, in conclusion, assures Government that it need have no fear on account of this paper, even if it sometimes has made mistakes. The language and style of its writings are not intelligible to the uneducated; while the educated, who constitute almost the whole list of its readers, are all disposed to extol the virtues of Government rather than dwell on its defects. It is the ignorant and the superstitious who are a cause of fear to the rulers, as witness the history of the Sepoy revolt. Government should, however, cease to listen to the blind counsel of the Anglo-Indian Editors, who are doing a good deal of harm by their writings. As a last word, the correspondents and contributors of the *Soma Prakāsh* are all exhorted to write temperately and with caution and moderation.

15. The same paper remarks that Government would confer a great boon, both on itself and the people, if it were to impart a military training to the Bengalis. It cannot be said that they are utterly wanting in courage and strength, the two essential requisites of a soldier. If the suggestion be acted upon, it will be a means of raising the Bengalis in the scale of nations.

16. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* is a new weekly, of which this, of the 16th April, is the first issue. In its opening editorial it remarks that the Legislative Council has, in passing the Vernacular Press Act, acted on the long established policy, that the evil which individuals or classes may suffer is not to be taken into account, where the good of the country is concerned. But in our opinion there was really nothing to fear from the press; otherwise we would not have objected to the law. The chief reason advanced in the Legislative Council for restricting the press was that seditious articles appeared in the papers, and these were likely to have an injurious effect on the minds of the ignorant and uneducated. We admit that the Vernacular papers have often blamed the actions of Government; nor do we approve of the tone of some of the extracts read in Council; yet there is a great difference between finding fault with the actions of officials and disaffection to Government. If the object of the press were only to sing the praises of the administrators and officers, it would be all the same whether the papers existed or not. But the principal object is to benefit the country; and if their faults too were not pointed out when necessary, how would the country be benefited? It is impossible to deny that the people enjoy ease and comfort under the British Government; and we do not recollect ever reading any article in a native newspaper tending to create disaffection towards our Sovereign. The *Amrita Bazār Patrikā* has got a name for hatred towards the Government, and many Englishmen think that to abuse the English race and Government is the prime object of the paper. It is true it has often found fault with the officials; but we do not remember reading any article therein which

SOMA PRAKASH,
April 29th, 1878.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
April 16th, 1878.

tended to create disaffection or sedition. The Bengalis are a weak and timid race, and what advantages could they derive from sedition? They would never be able to keep their independence, if they got it. The Bengali papers are loyal and thankful to the Government for the freedom of the press. The Legislative Council has fallen into an error in saying that the papers are read by the ignorant masses. As far as we know, they are never read by the uneducated; and in the country villages not more than three or four of the educated read them regularly. Ordinary villagers know nothing of the doings of Government; only when a tax is imposed are they aroused—they float along with the tide, and a hundred years of British rule has made no alteration in their position. It has been suggested that the news from the papers is retailed by the educated to the ignorant. This too is erroneous, as would appear to those who are acquainted with the great barrier that intervenes between these two classes of society. We feel therefore grieved at Government having passed this Act.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
April 16th, 1878.

17. This paper says that it makes the blood run cold to think that a license tax has been imposed on a people

The License Tax.

already suffering from the effects of famine and

high prices. The earnings of the Bengal ryot just suffice to provide his daily food; and they are very few indeed who can lay by anything after supplying the wants of their families. The state of the middle class is deplorable indeed; for after spending enough to sustain their position in society, they have scarcely anything left wherewith to provide for their dependents or to perform their religious rites. The Bengalis are loyal and patient, and did not imitate the citizens of Bombay in their conduct and the steps they took on the first appearance of the License Tax. Had they done so, they would have been put down as seditious, and imprisoned. Doubtless, the subjects must supply the wants of Government; but fresh taxes should not be imposed when the people are in an impoverished state, nor should any invidious distinction be made in leaving out the wealthy officials from the operation of this tax and imposing it on the poor.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
April 22nd, 1878.

18. This paper, noticing the recent trial of the Puri Rájá, his conviction, and sentence, remarks that, although the

The trial of the Puri Rájá.

Rájá is a member of a high and noble family,

he himself holding a respectable and influential position, yet all this cannot avail him; since every one, irrespective of rank, caste, or creed, is equal in the eyes of the law. In our opinion the Judge acted quite right in not passing a light sentence; and if Shivadás's death occurred from this dreadful deed of the Rájá, we think the Judge has been rather merciful to him.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
April 30th, 1878.

19. This paper acknowledges the various benefits which this country, the gem in England's Crown, has derived under the British rule; and whilst Bengal was

The Vernacular Press Act.

gradually advancing in prosperity, an adverse fate has made it difficult to enjoy the fruits thereof freely. The Press Act has been the cause of this; and, alas! the most loyal and advanced of the provinces of India has been the first victim selected; the *Soma Prakásh* and *Sahachar* have already gone—the tide of improvement has been stopped, and this makes us sad. We cannot conceive how this plant, sown and nourished by the merciful British, should have been cut down by their own hands. Can this be the work of the civilized English?—A very heavy blow has fallen on Bengal, which had hoped much from England—not a particle of praise can be bestowed on the invincible and powerful lion, striking down the sheep of Bengal, which rather should have been protected from harm.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

20. The country is flooded with Acts, and the Honorable Kishtodás Pál has just introduced the Rent Settlement Bill. We are not able to determine the drift

The Rent Settlement Bill.

of his intention; he has been considered a friend of the zamindárs, and the present Bill confirms that opinion. The declared object is to make a settlement of unsettled mouzahs; but none such is to be seen in Bengal. If the object be to increase the rents payable by the ryots, Act VIII of 1869 is sufficient for that purpose; though the present Bill will enable the landlord to do it more easily. By the provisions of sections 2 and 3, the petitioners, be they zamindárs or ryots, must pay all costs; the former being opulent will profit by it, but not the latter; who, besides being poor and passive, are uneducated and ignorant. In proof of this, the former have brought several actions since the enactment of Act VIII of 1869, for increase of rent; while those brought by the ryots for decrease of rent are very few indeed. If the rate is enhanced, and the ryot does not object within three months, he is barred from bringing a suit. If the zamindár manages to keep the notice back for the three months, the ryot is helpless. On the contrary, if the ryot brings a suit and the rent is decreased, there is no time specified within which the zamindár may file his objection; so that it is quite clear, that this Act has been made for the benefit of the zamindárs alone. An Act or two more, like this, will completely ruin the ryot, already suffering from drought, pestilence, and famine.

21. This paper complains of the lethargy exhibited by the committee of six Commissioners, appointed at a meeting of the Municipality on the 3rd December, to arrange for a drainage scheme for Burdwan, agreeably to a circular received from Government. Nothing has been done these five months, and no Commissioner has ventured out of his house to inspect the locality allotted for his report. The Chairman is urged to look after the matter.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
April 30th 1878.

22. The *Murshidábad Pratinidhi*, in announcing this the 3rd year of its existence, says that the Press Act, No. IX, overtook it just at this stage; and it has not as yet determined whether to seek refuge from this law by adopting the English language, as the *Amrita Bázár Patriká* has done, or to stop the issue of the paper altogether. To adopt the former course would be unwise; as many are ignorant of English, and would be put to inconvenience. By means of this harsh Act, the axe has been laid at the root of advancement in Bengal, and thorns placed in the way of the improvement of the language. This was not an act worthy of the British Government after giving us independence for nearly 200 years. It is laughable to think of the Hon'ble Mr. Eden's opinion, that the papers are edited by half-educated and read by uneducated men. On the contrary, they are written by educated men, and read by the educated and half-educated. His Honor perhaps wishes to eliminate all the papers from Bengal. None but an editor can understand the difficulty of writing when shackled with chains. Of what use is it if the grief and troubles of the subjects cannot be laid before the Sovereign? That the press was a source of profit to Government, and not of danger, every man of education will admit, though Mr. Eden may not. The Editor is against adopting an English garb, lest the paper might incur the dislike of the officials.

MURSHIDABAD
PATRIKA,
April 19th, 1878.

23. The *Pratikára* calls the recent Press Act the Arrow of Death the sharpness of which has prostrated the *Sahachara*, *Soma Prákash*, &c. Now-a-days the path of newspapers is beset with difficulties. Considering it would be sinful in us to commit suicide and shorten the few remaining days of our existence, we mean to call on the name of Hari and be quiet; so that from this day no one will see the *Pratikára* treading in the tortuous path of politics.

PRATIKARA,
19th and 28th April.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
April 24th, 1878.

24. After going into the case of the Puri Rájá as elicited at this trial, the *Hindu Ranjiká* says that there are two sets of opinions as to his sentence. But

The trial of the Puri Rájá.

the public are not distressed on his account. There is no person so ignorant as to think that, even if a Rájá or zamindár commits so heinous a crime, he will escape from the hands of English justice. The Bairági when first called seems to have had no suspicion, for he took four of his disciples with him. It is suspected that the Rájá was enraged with the Bairági, and therefore committed this inhuman deed. The Rájá is young in years, and did not do this of his own judgment. Every one would be satisfied if he were imprisoned for 14 years.

HINDU HITÁISHINI,
April 27th, 1878.

25. When, after the publication of Act IX of 1878, bonds were demanded of the printers and publishers, the

The Vernacular Press Act.

Sahachar and other papers stopped publication. We rejoiced to learn that the bonds were to be returned, and the papers only to be warned against writing anything offensive. Our fears have now been removed, and what Lord Lytton had declared, that the Act should not be immediately enforced, has been carried out by the warning only given to the papers in the North-Western Provinces and Bombay; and the order for taking bonds in these provinces having been revoked, the honor of the press here has been spared; so that the *Sahachar* ought to re-appear; and now that the Act has become law, every one will be cautious. Nothing of what we wrote previously was dictated by malice; if, however, by some mistake, anything has appeared about any one, Government might, by a little reflection, have understood it; at all events, we thank Government for its wise consideration. In another article this paper announces its satisfaction at learning that Lord Lytton had ordered the rescission of Mr. Eden's circular as to bail-bonds.

SULABHÁ SAMACHAR,
April 27th, 1878.

26. The *Sulabh Samáchar*, alluding to the recent instructions given by the Government of India as to carrying out the provisions of the Press Act, says, it

The Vernacular Press Act.

would have saved the honor of both parties if, instead of passing a law, the Government had done what it has only now thought of doing, that is, taken a verbal promise from each newspaper not to write anything seditious or likely to create disaffection or ill-feeling towards the Government. The Bengal Government did not act well in issuing its *perwannahs* in such haste. Such arbitrary Acts will not pass in this civilized nineteenth century. The editor expresses great satisfaction at the civility shown him by the Commissioner of Police, when he called on that gentleman relative to this Act.

SULABHÁ SAMACHAR.

27. This paper remarks that the Press Act is meant to stop seditious writings against the Government; hence it may be inferred that the power of reviewing Gov-

The Vernacular Press Act.

ernment measures in a mild and humble manner is still continued to us; but the Act is like a sharp razor, a little deviation therefrom will prove injurious. We do not wish to write sedition; but the only fear is that some loop-hole will be found in our writings whereby affliction may come upon us. We throw ourselves on the clemency of Mr. Eden, not knowing when we may be declared guilty. A mistranslation of an expression may excite the anger of some high official and cause our ruin. All editors will now have to exercise great caution.

MURSHIDABAD
PATRIKÁ,
April 26th, 1878.

28. The *Murshidabad Patriká* assures Government that it has fallen into a great error in passing Act IX. The meeting of the Town Hall, on the 19th ultimo, where four or five thousand people assembled, serves to prove this; all that

The Vernacular Press Act.

is required is to try first and punish afterwards, if found guilty. The Vernacular press is but an *exotic* transplanted here by England; and when it observes any misconduct or oppression, it is noticed and published. If the press be gagged, gossip and verbal communication will take the place of printed publications; and this neither the Magistrate nor police can stop. People when they heard a report, referred to the newspapers; and if they were ignorant men, inquiries were made whether it had appeared in print. In 1871, when the census was being taken, many foolish reports were circulated, which the press contrived to dissipate. What was effected by the newspapers to enlighten the ignorant will now have to be done by public police proclamations. In another article, on the same subject, the Editor resolves not to follow the suicidal plan of the other papers, and thereby incur perhaps greater displeasure; but to endeavour to act up to the wishes and orders of a paternal Government: and with reference to Mr. O'Donnell's motion in Parliament, it is hoped that full and correct translations of the condemned articles will be made and forwarded to Parliament.

29. When Sir George Campbell, while Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, was reproached and abused by the Vernacular newspapers, he never interfered with the liberty of the press. Although he well nigh upset the whole administration of Bengal, yet he created the native civil service and appointed many natives as Deputies and Sub-Deputies. We have had few Lieutenant-Governors like him. Lord Lytton blamed him wrongly with reference to the Vernacular press; and Sir George Campbell is grieved at this accusation. He and Mr. Bright are great friends to India, and we hope they will induce Parliament to take the Press Bill into consideration.

30. The *Sangbád Prabhákara*, in its three issues mentioned in the margin, reviews favourably the British Administration in India, commencing with Lord Clive. To compare the Mussulman with the British Administration would, the editor remarks, be like comparing hell and heaven. British justice here is in advance of that in France, Prussia, and Austria. Hundreds of the natives are employed in judicial posts; and almost all the pleaders, mooktears, and a great many attorneys and clerks are Bengalis. The civil laws of all religions are impartially administered; the Muhammadan by the *Quarân*, the Hindu by the *Shâstras*. Every page of Indian History under the British rule will show that the Bengalis and the ryots have been treated as sons. Bengali education and literature have, with the aid of English, received a great impetus. Bengal, which at the time of Lord Cornwallis was impoverished and overrun with jungle, with scarcely a habitable place to be found in it, now abounds in wealth, and takes the first rank amongst the provinces of India. It would be vain to institute any comparison between the number of offices held by the Bengalis under British rule and those under the Mussulman; for it has passed into a proverb, "there are no more situations to be had in the bazars," sufficing to show what a number of Bengalis are already employed under Government. Since wealth is the source of all good and prosperity, the administration of that nation, which enables its subjects to acquire it easily, should always be prayed for. We are enabled to become rich under the British rule, and it must be admitted that the wealth of Bengal has increased. It would be superfluous to say that every Bengali has the welfare of the British at heart.

31. "Is it a dream or a reality," is the heading of the following article by the *Sangbád Purnochandrodaya* on the recent Press Act. The natives are indebted to the English for everything, the situations they hold, the materials they wear, and the education they get. When standing by the side of our Professor we

SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 27th, 1878.

SAMBADPRABHAKARA,
16th, 17th, and 18th,
April.

SAMBAD PURNA
CHANDRODAYA,
April 27th, 1878.

look upon him with all respect ; we call the English Government a beneficent one ; we look on the High Court Judges as the symbols of justice ; and in the performance of all our domestic religious duties we think of our Governor-General as we would of our Rájá. Yet he it is who has enacted a law that we must not speak of the acts of Government. Alas ! that we should be looked upon as seditious by all classes of Englishmen. Had we rebelled like Servia we might have been punished. What a misfortune is it for us, living in this peaceful country, to be called seditious. We expected there would be mutual good feelings between the English and the natives ; no one harming the other ; but the taking away the liberty of the press has shown this to be an error, and we have become a cause of offence in the eyes of the Sovereign. All this appears as a dream.

GRAMBARTÁ
PRAKASHIKÁ,
May 1st, 1878.

32. The *Grámbártá Prakáshiká*, commenting, on the present deplorable state of India, asks its readers to bear in mind especially two classes of people—one, the helpless and poor but respectable class ; and the other, the labouring class. A series of famines and the exportation of country produce have tended to produce a deficiency in the supply of food-grains ; but our merciful Government has put on the License Tax as a source of relief for the poor ; while those earning their thousands and lakhs have been let off. The stamp law, &c., have increased the cost of justice ; and the poor are thereby deprived of their rights. The enactment of the Vernacular Press Act has put a stop to the complaints of the poor being heard against oppression. The *páthshálás* and aided schools, established by Sir George Campbell for the education of the poor, are gradually disappearing ; the grant-in-aid to the Comerciolly aided vernacular school has been stopped ; and the *pandit* of the circle *páthshálá* is to be transferred, much to the detriment of the poor. This may be on the same rule as the restriction placed on the Vernacular press. Mr. Stevens, the Magistrate of Nuddea, is appealed to to look after the welfare of the Comerciolly Bengali and circle *páthshálás*, and thereby secure the blessings of the many poor who have been benefited thereby.

SAHACHAR,
April 29th, 1878.

33. The *Sahachar*, on its re-appearance, respectfully salutes its readers, the public, and its well-wishers. The Editor is grateful to those who have expressed sympathy with his late misfortunes, and remarks. "It is very gratifying to observe that henceforth the writings in the Vernacular papers will be construed by Government, in accordance with the explanation given in the Penal Code of 'seditious expressions.' All is well that ends well. We hope friendly feelings will be confirmed between the authorities and writers in the newspapers in general. It does not behove the latter to abuse the rulers. It reflects honor upon the former, that they, as a rule, act with a desire to do good. Even when they commit errors, they are not vicious. Their errors, whenever they occur, should be pointed out. They ought not to be offended at this. It is impossible that the law should be so unnatural and unreasonable in its meaning that anything said or written, which may excite the anger of the rulers, is seditious. We are sure they will not construe the law in this way. But at the same time let no writer use such expressions, directly or by implication, which might excite disrespect, disaffection, or dislike to Government, or whose ultimate consequence may be a revolt. On the other hand, Government should act with caution. Since the translations are done by a foreigner and the articles are not fully translated, we ask Government to furnish Native Editors with the Weekly Reports and other official communications.

SAHACHAR.

34. The same paper has an appreciative notice of Mr. Justice Kemp, who has just retired, in which his courtesy, independence, impartiality, and judicial abilities are dwelt upon.

The retirement of Justice Kemp.

35. The *Bishwa Dút*, in its supplement with black borders, first remarks

Farewell and revival.

on the preservation of its honor by the *Soma Prakásh*, which preferred its demise to signing a bail-bond; but the *Sád'háraní*, taking a different view of the matter, coincided with the opinion of the Magistrate and signed the bail-bond, because it did not suppose that a wise Government wished to put a stop to independent discussion on ordinary matters. The Editor then leaves his readers to judge between the two papers, and proceeds to make known the step he has taken. He takes a farewell of his readers for the same reasons as the *Soma Prakásh*, and because the Vernacular newspapers have forfeited the confidence of Government. Is this the benefit of the law proposed by Sir Arbuthnot, assented to by Lord Lytton, and carried into operation by Mr. Eden? Who among these persons is entitled to the greatest gratitude from us? Is not Bengal to remain ever grateful to Mr. Eden, the friend of Bengal? We bid farewell to our readers and friends; and if ever the opinion of Government undergoes some modification, or if the present *regimé* is supplanted by better men from England, we would then bring the *Bishwa Dút* thankfully into existence again.

BISHWA DÚT,
April 24th, 1878.

In a second smaller Supplement of the same date, this paper announces its revival, in consequence of a communication received from the Magistrate rescinding the order as to a bail-bond.

36. The *Bhárat Sanskárak* publishes the letter of the Magistrate of the

The Vernacular Press Act.

24-Pergunnahs regarding the withdrawal of the demand of security, and in so doing notices the difference of action taken by the Governments of Bombay and Bengal, and states that he had already refused to sign the bail-bond, but is now happy that his paper has been saved from impending dissolution; though the press cannot act independently so long as the Act is in existence. The Editor goes on to remark: we have been accused of sedition, defamation, of being teachers of sedition, terrifiers of office-holders, &c. We deny all this. In conclusion, if all Editors acted unanimously and were actuated by similar feelings, neither would this great stigma have been placed on us nor would this severe law have been passed. Let us now enter upon a course of life, the main object of which must be to regain and preserve our honor, and let not any low wishes or intentions infatuate our minds. In another place this paper publishes a translation of Mr. Routledge's letter to the *Indian Daily News*, copies of which were sent to Lord Salisbury, Messrs. Bright, Forsyth, and other persons of high position. Notice is also taken of the agitation in England about the Press Act, from which much is expected.

BHARAT
SANSKARAK,
May 3rd, 1878.

37. The *Grámbártá Prakáshiká* was glad to find, from the columns of

The Vernacular Press Act and its
rescission.

the *Englishman* and the Supplement of the *Bishwa Dút*, that the circular as to the taking of bail-bonds had been recalled. The Editor yet expects that the Act will be merely temporary, and there is much hope in the agitation made in the House of Commons. At all events, we feel very grateful to Lord Lytton for the little mercy now shown; though it is with very much regret we notice the different action taken by the Government of Bombay and that of Mr. Eden under the same Act; the former simply giving a warning, and the latter requiring bail-bonds and security: we did not expect this from one who knew so much of Bengal. If the household god is unpropitious, the house cannot prosper. We therefore pray that he may be gracious towards us. As a child makes known its wants to its parent, so does the Vernacular press to Government.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
May 1st, 1878.

BISHWA DÚT,
May 1st, 1878.

38. The *Bishwa Dút* says that, shortly after receiving from the Magistrate of the order of the active Bengal Government as to signing a bond, a communication

The Vernacular Press Act.

was received cancelling it, and requesting us to use caution. Although Lord Lytton did no creditable thing in giving his assent to the Press Act, yet it was not his wish to have all the Vernacular papers tied down. Mr. Eden now sees the fruits of his hastiness in demanding securities from extinct and existing papers alike. Bengal has no fault, and no one here wished him ill. Then why has he been doing all this? Many think that he actually hated Bengal, but waited for an opportunity to show it on coming to power; he has regarded his friends as his enemies, and not taken into consideration the friendship of sixty millions of the people over whom he rules. Although he has hurt the feelings of the Bengali Editors, it is certain they will not look upon him as an enemy. The Bengalis cannot in one day forget the good they have derived from him so long. We have been always loyal to the Sovereign and to the British rule. We are what we have been, and shall not be what we are not. We were not heretofore aware that to tender good advice to the Government, to ventilate the grievances of the subjects, and seek to secure the compassion of our rulers, &c., constituted disloyalty. Our ignorance of this has been our fault; and the penalty is very severe. Why should bonds have been required? Children when caned by their teachers, cry out and are forgiven on promising to do better; this promise may proceed from two causes, either from actual guilt, or, if faultless, through a fear of the cane; but neither case suits us: we have committed no fault and cannot make the promise not to do it again. We will act as cautiously as we have always done in honoring the Government. Some of our contemporaries have given a bond; others who were called upon, but eventually had not to give it, are rejoicing. We despise the timidity of the one, while we disregard the joy of the latter, because there can be no real happiness so long as the law exists. All the papers should have stopped and awaited the result of the Parliamentary action. The main point in the Town Hall meeting was not relative to the bail-bonds but to the Act itself. There is something in the present action taken by Lord Lytton. At all events the existing relationship between the English and Bengalis will continue permanent; for it would otherwise be productive of evil.

LOCAL.

SADHARANI,
April 28th, 1878.

39. The *Sádháraní*, of the 28th April, writes a long article, in which

The failure of the water-supply in Hooghly.

he dwells on the miserable condition into which the district of Hooghly has been brought by the failure of water-supply in the tanks, rivers, and canals for the last three or four years. An account is given of the different proposals made, from time to time, to introduce water into the Káná Nadí from the Damador by the local authorities and zamindárs. The observations are the same as those noticed in paragraph 1 of our Report of the 10th March 1878.

SADHARANI.

40. A correspondent of the same paper notices a fearful outbreak of

An outbreak of cholera in Burdwan.

cholera in Berugram, Balárapore, Gangárapore, and other villages in the district of Burdwan. The inhabitants are generally poor agriculturists, who cannot afford to pay for medical treatment. Nor is medical aid available on the spot. The attention of the authorities is directed to the matter.

MURSHIDABAD
PRATINIDHI,
April 19th, 1878.

41. This paper urges the public and Editors of newspapers to support

Memorial of the Indian Association.

the Indian Association in the memorial submitted to Parliament for the repeal of Act

IX; for if the press be not independent, the country cannot prosper; grievances can neither be ventilated nor redressed. All the newspapers have had to suffer in a body for the faults of a few.

42. This paper complains that the three-card gambling trick, which was driven out of the city by orders of Government, has re-appeared in the villages, and is played openly in the public streets and market places, and many unwary and inexperienced youths have been ruined thereby to the great grief of their parents. An order should be passed for the police to arrest all persons found gambling in this manner, and the owner of the place where the practice is being carried on should be fined. Bad characters mostly infest these places and oppress and rob passengers. A friend writes saying that the whole of Bikrampore is suffering from this pestiferous nuisance. Government should enact some law to do away with this kind of gambling effectually.

The three-card gambling in Bikrampore

HINDU HITASHINI,
April 27th, 1878.

43. Opinions differ as to the existing relations between landlord and tenant; but one fact is clear, that the country is sinking into decay; various too are the surmises as to the conduct of the zamindárs and ryots respectively. Be that as it may, we blame the oppressing party always, be he zamindár or tenant. Government is well aware of the deeds of violence, &c., committed by the ryots in East Bengal, and the stoppage of the payment of rents; but to deduce therefrom that the zamindárs are oppressive is erroneous. For these ryots refuse to pay the rents which have been given for the past ten years; not because the fertility of the land or the price of corn has decreased (these have rather increased), but on account of the Government cesses, for they take good care to examine and see for themselves. The fact is that this stoppage of rent has become an epidemic, having its origin in Pubna. From all circumstances, it does not appear that oppression is in any way the cause of the outrageous conduct of the ryots. Their condition has changed for the better by the profit derived from the sale of their corn produce, and they therefore do not consider themselves a whit less than the most respectable man. In fact, the most just and equitable of zamindárs has had payment of his rent stopped by the banding of these lower classes together, thus tending to the evil of the country; and there are few zamindárs or tálukdárs who do not suffer from this unlawful union. The evil will go on increasing to the material detriment of the country if the Government, the ryots, and zamindárs do not unite to devise some means for staying it. While these two parties entertain the most conflicting views, how can the country prosper? We can say from experience that the ryot becomes proud and contumacious when he has gathered a little money, and this passion ignites everything that comes in its way. Something should be done to put it out.

Disputes between landlord and tenants.

HINDU HITASHINI.

44. In a *communicated* article to this paper, the writer describes the recent meeting at the Town Hall, on the subject of the Press Act, as a very encouraging one, comprising, as it did, all classes and conditions of the Bengalis. The writer defends the long sustained and irreproachable loyalty of the Bengalis; who, when victims to the fiendish cruelty and oppression of the Mussulman kings, were not disloyal; and this brings to mind the Pindári war and the mutiny, and the brilliant loyalty of the Bengalis as exhibited on those occasions. We are lost, says the writer, in grief. Letters were read, received from various places, sympathizing with the meeting; but no mention was made of Dacca, whose inaction is much to be regretted.

The Town Hall meeting against the Press Act.

HINDU HITASHINI.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
April 27th, 1878.

45. This paper says that gratitude and loyalty are the predominant virtues of the people of India, who bow their heads in reverence when bringing to mind

Loyalty of the Bengalis.

the virtues and good qualities and administration of Victoria, Queen-Empress. Let those who have been instrumental in framing the Act lay their hands on their hearts and say whether we are loyal or not. Our very loyal natures are our bail-bonds. Let the English judge and see whether our pattern of loyalty does not reach a higher standard than their own. Want of confidence is at the root of all. It is nothing but natural that a guilty person should suspect others.

MURSHIDABAD
PATRIKA,

46. The *Murshidabad Patriká* remarks that, notwithstanding some offenders found gambling have been punished, yet there are others belonging to the gang,

The three-card gambling in Moorshedabad.

who have threatened the prosecutor and witnesses in the case. The police should be on the alert, and, if able, take bonds from them for good behaviour. There are many petty thieves belonging to this gang who haunt the solitary places of Cossimbazar, Kalipore, Jháokholá, Vishnupore, &c., and take even to cattle-lifting.

DACCA PRAKASH,
April 28th, 1878.

47. The *Dacca Prakásh* learns on good authority that, for the past three or four years, cholera and fever have, owing to the sluggishness of the stream of the

Fever and cholera on the banks of the Ichámatí River.

River Ichámatí, been carrying off numbers of people in *Viláspur, Dévínagar, Dohar, Meghulla, Jayapara, &c.* The want of good water is the cause. The Government should therefore, after due inquiry, station a doctor in some large village in the vicinity, as the people are too poor to get one for themselves. The channel of the above river should be deepened, so as to make it a flowing stream as before; the expenses might easily be met from the Road Cess Funds. Not only would disease be checked thereby, but the passage to and from Goalundo be rendered more convenient and speedy.

SAMBAD PURNA-
CHANDRODAYA,

48. The *Sangbád Púrnochandrodyá*, descanting on the state of Bengal, remarks that trade, sciences, agriculture, the arts, giving up slavishness, and striking out an independent business, are the only means doubtless whereby Bengal may be improved. We have, through the favour of the English, become accomplished in education, so much so that we are envied by English scholars. Bengal is a special instance of this; but it is not education alone that will improve the land, agriculture must be promoted through a cultivation of the sciences.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 4th May 1878.

JOHN ROBINSON,

Government Bengali Translator.